

REMARKS

The office action of September 18, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the specification is objected to on formal grounds.

Claim 3 is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 2003-33854.

Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 2003-33854.

In connection with the Examiner's objections to the application, applicant has attached hereto an Abstract of the Disclosure and has amended the specification to include section headings.

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In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the application are overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's objection to and rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-12 and 14.

With the amendment of claim 3 it is respectfully submitted that the objection to this claim as containing informalities is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on

file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that JP 2003-33854 discloses a method and a device for driving a support roll of a continuous casting machine for liquid metals with individual adjustment of torque and speed. This reference does not disclose determining a total driving torque for all drives from the normal force of the driven drive support rolls and proportionately transmitting the driving torque to each support roll so that a static base setting of the torque distribution is used as the basis for the specific load capacity of each drive support roll. Instead, JP 2003 033854 discloses individually setting the torque and speed for each support roll.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 2-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

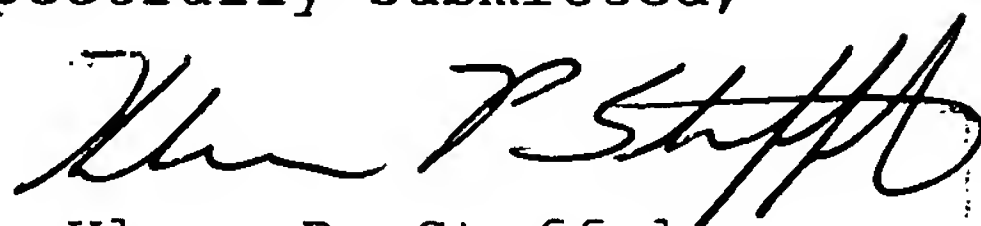
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

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Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 19, 2010.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: January 19, 2010